



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Blue Ridge and  
Long Valley  
Ranger Districts

HC 31, Box 300  
Happy Jack, AZ 86024  
(520) 477-2255

File Code: 2230  
Date: June 1, 2000

Keith A. and Susanne M. Siebert  
P.O. Box 1424  
Pine, Arizona 85544

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Siebert:

This letter will serve as your 2000 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). You have applied to graze cattle on the Baker Lake and Calf Pen allotment as follows:

6/1 to 10/31	33 Cattle	Class C/C	Calf Pen Allotment
6/1 to 10/31	67 Cattle	Class C/C	Baker Lake Allotment
Total	100		

You already had a 20% suspension of numbers on the Allotment in 2000 (26 head). The suspension would have brought your numbers down to 105 head permitted on the Allotment. Non-use of 5 head on the allotment is approved for resource protection.

You will ensure that the bill for \$63.20 you received in association with the suspension is paid before the cattle are turned out on the allotment. This also applies to the bill for the 2000 grazing season.

We will not implement the new Allotment Management Plan in 2000, as all the improvements are not yet in place. Your grazing schedule for 2000 is as follows:

#### **Calf Pen Allotment**

Pasture	Date
Brushy/Calf Pen	6/1 – 8/21
Pocket	8/22 – 9/25
29 Mile	9/26 – 10/ 31

#### **Baker Lake Allotment**

Pasture	Date
Milk Ranch	6/1 – 7/31
Baker Lake	8/1 – 10/5
Cinch Hook	10/6 – 10/31

On both allotments, exact move dates will be dependent on the forage conditions this spring and on the pattern and amount of summer rains.



Any changes in the grazing schedule will need prior approval by the District Ranger. If you see a need to modify the grazing schedule, please notify this office at least 10 working days before the planned date of moving. Also, you should notify the Forest Service before placing your livestock on the allotments so that a Forest officer can verify livestock numbers on the allotments.

We (FS and permittee) installed cages in riparian, aspen, meadows and Ponderosa pine key areas in the spring of 1998. We will examine the key areas this spring to determine if they are still suitable. You will be contacted so you will be able to assist in the placement of the cages. The cages will be placed in key areas on productive soils, on level to intermediate slopes, and where possible 1/4 to 1 mile from water. The key areas are identified in the Forest Plan as MA 3, 5, 9, and 12.

You will be required to document actual grazing dates for each pasture and to monitor, under Forest Service direction, forage utilization in each pasture (before and after livestock use, and at the end of the growing season). A copy of the monitoring form is enclosed. It is important that these forms be returned to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season.

The enclosure (*Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans*) has been made a part of the AOP, and must be adhered to in the locations specified in the following table during the breeding season (March 1 to August 31). I enclose maps for both allotments showing the areas in which the mitigation measures apply. Livestock will graze these areas if scheduled.

Salt and/or mineral supplements will be used to help distribute livestock. All salt and mineral supplements will be placed at least 1/4 mile away from water unless agreed to in writing by the District Ranger.

### **Mitigation For Mexican Spotted Owls and Peregrine Falcons**

No activities allowed (as specified in the Mitigation enclosure) in:

#### *Baker Lake and Calf Pen Allotments*

*T. 13 N., R. 8 E., Sections 21, 28 and N 1/2 33.*

*T. 12 N., R. 8 E., Sections W 1/2 Sec. 1, N 1/2 Sec. 11, Sec. 2, & N 1/2 Sec 10.*

*T. 13 N., R. 8 E., Sections S 1/2 34, and S 1/2 35.*

*T. 12 N., R. 8 E., Sections, SE 1/2 Sec 18 and N 1/2 Sec 19.*

The range improvement planned in 2000 is the one mile of boundary fence in the Brushy Pasture. We will attempt to get the clearances necessary to construct the two short stretches of fence splitting the Brushy and Calf Pen Pastures and between the 29 Mile and Calf Pen Pastures. We will contact you if we have obtained the clearances so that you can construct the two short stretches of fence. All range improvements assigned to you on the Baker Lake/Calf Pen allotments should be maintained in good working condition.

We will also attempt to get the necessary clearances for a new tank by Nash Point to be constructed in 2001. You will be contacted if necessary to pinpoint the location on the ground of all the proposed improvements.

I enclose a map of the Pocket Timber Sale cutting units planned for treatment in 2000. The plan is for the units south of Hwy 87 to be cut first thing in the season, and the units north of 87 to be cut later in the season. If you notice any damage to improvements during timber activities, please contact Jerry Gonzales or Dan Derrick (520-354-2216).

Any maintenance or improvement work on the allotment should be coordinated with the District Range Staff so that the appropriate clearances can be completed prior to actually starting the project.

Caution needs to be used during any activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles need to be equipped with the following : Water bucket, shovel, and axe. All open camp and branding fires will require a fire ring down to mineral soil cleared at least 10 feet in diameter

All internal combustion engine equipped tools and equipment require an inspection prior to use on National Forest lands. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the Blue Ridge District at 477-2255, the Long Valley District at 354-2216, or the Coconino National Forest fire dispatcher at 527-0600.

The Annual Operating Plan is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit, as provided in Part 2, Section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1,2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, we may suspend or cancel your permit, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. The AOP complies with the standards and guidelines found in the LMP.

The Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82 (a) (3) Grazing and livestock permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to occupy and use National Forest System lands.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Gonzales at the Long Valley Ranger District.

/Larry G. Sears/

LARRY G. SEARS  
District Ranger  
Blue Ridge and Long Valley Ranger Districts

Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zanutto, S.O.

## Utilization Monitoring

Allotment Name: **Baker Lake/Calf Pen**Year: **2000**

Pasture Name	LMP Mgt Area	Graze Period	Livestock Numbers	* Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use on Key Area
<b>Calf Pen Allotment</b>									
Brushy/Calf Pen		6/1 – 8/21	33						
Pocket		8/22 – 9/25	33						
Brushy		9/26 – 10/31	33						
<b>Baker Lake Allotment</b>									
Milk Ranch		6/1 – 7/31	67						
Baker Lake		8/1 – 10/5	67						
Cinch Hook		10/6 – 10/31	67						
<b>Key Area Monitoring</b>									

\* **D** = Dormant      **S** = Slow Growth      **F** = Fast Grow\*\* **N** = No use (0-10%)    **L** = Light Use (11-25%)    **M** = Moderate Use (26-50%)    **H** = Heavy Use (51-70%)    **E** = Extreme Use (71+%)

Utilization Monitoring

**Allotment Name:** Baker Lake/Calf Pen **Year:** 2000

**Year:** 2000

[illegible]

## **Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans**

**The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.**

*The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.*

1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan :

A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.

B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.

C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.

2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.

A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.

C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.

3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.

## MSO Mitigation

- A. Spring branding or fall gathering.
- B. Construction activities such as; new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

### **Additional Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Allotments, Apache Maid, and Beaver Creek Allotments.**

*These allotments run in an east/west direction. On an ecosystem level, wildlife habitat conditions can be improved by coordination between adjacent allotments to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Each allotment should coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all allotments are grazing northern pastures during the same year, or southern pastures during the same year.*

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13 Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. This year, Buckhorn will change its plan to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

Buckhorn will coordinate with the 13 Mile allotment and Walker Basin. When 13 Mile is grazing north pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest its southern pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. Buckhorn will graze its northern pastures at the same time Walker Basin grazes its northern pastures.

Walker Basin will coordinate with the Buckhorn and Beaver Creek allotments.

Apache Maid will coordinate with Beaver Creek.

Beaver Creek will coordinate with Apache Maid and Walker Basin.